

Maine State Library Maine State Documents

Center for Workforce Research and Information
Documents

Labor

8-1-1957

Labor Market News Letter, August 1957

Maine Employment Security Commission

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalmaine.com/cwri_docs

Recommended Citation

Maine Employment Security Commission, "Labor Market News Letter, August 1957" (1957). *Center for Workforce Research and Information Documents*. Paper 158.
http://digitalmaine.com/cwri_docs/158

This Text is brought to you for free and open access by the Labor at Maine State Documents. It has been accepted for inclusion in Center for Workforce Research and Information Documents by an authorized administrator of Maine State Documents. For more information, please contact statedocs@maine.gov.

ESS. 21: 957/8
c.1

LABOR MARKET



NEWS LETTER

Maine Employment Security Commission 331 Water Street Augusta, Maine



AUGUST-1957
ISSUED BI-MONTHLY



Labor Market Highlights — Employment conditions in Maine are slightly less favorable than a year ago, but there have been no indications of a general weakening in the State's economic position. Trends in labor requirements among leading industries were somewhat mixed during the summer months. However, total employment remains at a relatively high level. The number of unemployed persons in the labor market, while not appreciable, is greater than at this time in 1956, but the supply of available labor, except in a few communities where recent layoffs have occurred, is not excessive.

Demand for Nonfarm Labor — Demand for nonagricultural workers dropped off following the spring and early summer upsurge in hirings among employers whose applications usually rise to a seasonal peak in the summer. In July, local employment offices of the Maine Employment Security Commission received orders for 3,850 nonfarm workers as compared with 4,105 in June and 7,618 in May. In July 1956, the number of nonagricultural jobs listed with the local offices was 4,709.

Localized Shortages — Job openings remaining unfilled because of localized shortages of qualified workers residing in areas in which the demand for labor exists, are not as numerous as at the first of the summer. At the present time local employment offices list 169 vacancies in 41 different nonagricultural occupations which are difficult to fill. Two months ago local shortages were evident with respect to 356 of the nonfarm jobs listed in local offices. Current shortages, by broad occupational group categories are as follows: professional and managerial — 24; clerical — 1; service — 18; skilled — 26; semiskilled — 6; and unskilled — 94.

Farm Labor Needs — Relatively heavy summer crop yields in most sections of the State resulted in heavy demand for seasonal agricultural and food processing workers this year. Youths were utilized extensively in harvesting operations, but local labor shortages were apparent in a few areas where bumper crops — especially of blueberries and green beans — were reported. Such shortages were resolved through the importation

of out-of-area labor into the sections where requirements were the most pressing. There were very few instances where foreign workers had to be called upon for assistance, but the prospects for a large potato crop are such that it is anticipated that about 7,000 Canadians will have to be imported to help in the fall harvest.

Registered Supply of Workers — Persons registered for work in the local MESC offices totalled 13,058 on August 1 as compared with 16,130 two months earlier. The two-month, 19 percent decline in work registrations was attributable to the absorption of many job-seekers, especially youths, in seasonal employment. The current supply of labor in the State appears to be about 29.4 percent greater than a year ago when 10,089 persons were actively seeking work through the facilities of the local public employment offices.

Job-Seekers' Characteristics — Of the workers registered for employment at the first of the current month, 5,891 were females and 7,167 were males. The sex composition of the labor supply, judging from work applications on file, underwent comparatively little change in the two-month period between June 1 and August 1 — female applicants having accounted for 48.4 percent of the total on June 1 and 45.1 percent on August 1. Applicants on the latter date were classified on a broad occupational group basis as follows: professional and managerial — 365; clerical and sales — 1,434; service — 791; skilled — 1,922; semiskilled — 3,087; and unskilled — 5,459.

Unemployment Insurance Claims — Claims for unemployment insurance benefits, although down seasonally from last winter and spring, have, nevertheless, been at a considerably higher level during the summer this year than in 1956. Average weekly insured unemployment under the State UI program was up 35.4 percent in July as compared with July last year and the claims load showed no signs of dropping off during August. Layoffs in the fabricated metal products and textile industries, along with erratic production schedules in fish processing plants, have been major factors in preventing a downturn in the claims load. Also, lower employment requirements than last year in contract construction and logging and lumbering

have contributed to the higher volume of unemployment this year.

Insured Unemployment Rate — Maine's insured unemployment rate — based upon continued claims filed during the first full week of August as related to average monthly covered employment — was 3.5 percent. Twelve other states in the country had insured unemployment ratios which were equal to or greater than Maine's. The nationwide average rate was 2.9 percent, while rates for the other New England States were: Connecticut — 3.1; Massachusetts — 2.9; New Hampshire — 3.5; Rhode Island — 6.1; and Vermont — 2.5.

MAINE EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION
331 WATER STREET, AUGUSTA, MAINE
AFFILIATED WITH
UNITED STATES EMPLOYMENT SERVICE
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL
UNITED STATES POSTAGE
ACCOUNTED FOR UNDER
ACT OF CONGRESS